



# Get to Know Summit 6

## *FEMA Corps Team*

### **Southern Region – Vicksburg, MS**



*Summit 6 will be visiting CNCS HQ on Tuesday 1/12. Stop in to the 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom (10993) between 2:15-3:00pm to meet the crew!*

**Summit 6** has spent the majority of their time working with Voluntary Agency Liaisons at FEMA. In their first round, they were deployed to **Washington, DC** to work with the VALs. Projects there included a Zombie Apocalypse Preparedness Project, supporting the VAL Partnership Day event, creating preparedness videos and creating various logos.

Halfway through the project round, Summit 6 was redeployed to **South Carolina** to assist with the DR-4241 response. At first, Summit 6 worked in a Disaster Recovery Center supporting Individual Assistance Specialists. Roles included reception, registration and Individual Assistance casework. Two team members were assigned to work in the Joint Field Office with DRC Coordination. After working at the DRC and JFO for a few weeks, the whole team was moved to work in the JFO. At the JFO, Summit 6

worked to support the VALs again. Team members were assigned a VAL to support and worked on individual projects. These projects included County Resource Profiles, Branch Support and the development Fast Track Repair Initiative.

In their second round, Summit 6 was deployed to **Washington, DC** to work with the VALs for a second time. Projects in DC included a FEMA Corps Informational slideshow, development of a VAL partners list, social media posts for Points of Light, Field Leadership Status Report and Disaster Donations Daily Updates.

## Summit 6 is...

**Sophie Miller-DeSart** (*Team Leader*) - As the Team Leader for Summit 6, Sophie's experience in FEMA Corps has been very educational. Born in Salt Lake City, UT, raised in Las Vegas, NV, receiving a BS in Human Development and Family Studies from The University of Nevada, Sophie considers herself a rolling stone with a big ol' heart. Some of the best moments during any of her community or national service have come from meeting the people she serves and serving the people she meets. A lifetime of becoming more effective at helping others around the world is what she aspires to.

**Noah Batcha** - I have always aspired to help individuals, groups, my country, the world at large. In my fast approaching professional career, I hope to be working to better myself, those around me, and ultimately some piece of life and the world as a whole. I feel strongest when I am able to teach someone something I know a lot about or when I am able to help others succeed. There are facets of public service that would greatly accommodate my urge to help and I see myself heading towards that path.

**Symphony Carr** - My name is Symphony and I am 20 years old. I grew up in Marietta, GA, a town just fifteen minutes outside of Atlanta. I graduated from Marietta High School. One of my most favorite moments in the program so far was the day my team and I attended the ropes course at the University of Mississippi.

**Joseph Gleason** - My name is Joe Gleason and I was born in Tokyo, Japan. I joined FEMA Corps for the self-development, 10 months of service, travelling, and to meet new people. My future professional goals are to travel overseas and work in conservation.

**Alexis Hoffman** - I am from Albany, OR and I enjoy helping people. I want to do more traveling and volunteering when I'm done with this program.

**Elizabeth Holt** - I was inspired to join AmeriCorps because of my passion for community service. After this program, I hope to continue serving through AmeriCorps State/National and continue my education as a Graduate Student.

**Will Smith** - I was inspired to join FEMA Corps because I wanted to be a part of a National Service Program to pursue a professional career in non-profits and to put my college degree to the test! My favorite part of FEMA Corps is planning and participating in the ISP, individual service projects, for our team. My goal is to continue to pursue a career in community service, by joining City Year, Teacher For America, or AmeriCorps Vista to be an English teacher.

**Brandon Wegner** - Being from rural Wisconsin, much of my inspiration for joining FEMA Corps was to get to travel the country while performing National Service. Service has been a defining part of my life for many years whether it be through my work in volunteer EMS, Alzheimer's-Dementia care, and/or mission work. I would like to incorporate service into my future career working for a law enforcement agency, or a civil rights organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign or American Civil Liberties Union because to me, a life without service is no life at all.



## Get to Know Summit 7

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For our first round, **Summit 7** was deployed 3 times. We started in **Washington DC**, where we worked at FEMA Headquarters with the National Disaster Recovery Framework. Our team was split up into



different projects, including strategic analysis, training course development, data entry and more. Mary Anne Lyle and Roy Dunn were our POC's.

Once the South Carolina flooding occurred, we were deployed to the National Processing Service Center in **Winchester, VA**. There we took registrations for disaster victims to apply for FEMA's individual assistance program. We took over 2500 registrations in one month! At the end of the round, in early November, we were deployed back to FEMA HQ for a quick project to help with Individual Assistance to assess employee's training qualifications.

For our second round, we were deployed back to **Washington, DC and FEMA HQ**. We are still working with Mary Anne Lyle but since the re-alignment, we are now in the Field Operations Directorate working on various projects there.

## Summit 7 is...

**Katie Sullivan (Team Leader)** – Katie is 25 and originally from West Islip, NY. She graduated from American University in 2013 with a BA in International Studies. She joined FEMA Corps after working at a non-profit outside DC, and has had some great experiences, particularly in North Carolina and Alabama. When she finishes her second year with FEMA Corps, Katie hopes to continue working in emergency management.

**Michaela Bucca** - Michaela is 22 from Scituate, MA. She just graduated this May with her Bachelors in public health. Joining FEMA Corps will give her the experience she needs for a future career in emergency management. Even though she is at the beginning of time in the program, she has already made lifelong memories with her team and feels she has made an impact in the communities she has served in.

**Anna Compton** - Anna is 18 years old and is from Woodstock, NY. She joined the program to do something meaningful with her gap year and to bring her volunteerism and activism to a bigger setting. Her favorite moment in the program has been being a part of packing over 1.1 million meals for veterans, first responders, and elders who are struggling from poverty because it had efforts from so many organizations and proved that when different people come together something big and powerful can happen. She plans on attending college next year at SUNY Potsdam where she deferred and will major in Sociology with a minor in Environmental Studies and Sciences.

**Danielle Daly** - Danielle is 23 from Holliston, Massachusetts. She Graduated UMass Amherst in May of 2014 with a BS in Public Health. She joined the program to gain some experience in public health and emergency management, to travel, and to help others. Her favorite moment from the program was packing meals for veterans on 9/11 and hitting the 1 million mark. She plans on finding a job in either public health, community service, or emergency management after the program ends.

**Mikhail Gebhart** - Mikhail is 23 years old and is from Powell, OH. He joined the program to learn about disaster relief, so that it could potentially help his careers in the future with wilderness wildfires. His favorite moment in the program was packing meals for veterans on 9/11 and packing 1.2 million meals. He plans to either join the Special Forces, or go into wilderness firefighting when the program ends.

**Victoria Huffington** - Victoria is 23 from Indianapolis, Indiana. Victoria joined the program to help the US especially when they need it most in the time of a disaster. Her favorite time in the program so far has been working directly in the non-profits that fight poverty such as; capitol food bank, D.C. central kitchen, and food with friends. She is looking for a job working in youth development, nonprofit work or has a volunteer coordinator after the program ends.

**Jeff Ledington** - Jeff is 22 from Barbourville, KY. He joined AmeriCorps to help others and to learn more about himself. His favorite part of the program thus far is the exposure to other cultures and people.

**Roy Rosario** – Roy is 24 and from Bridgeport, Connecticut. He joined this program to gain different experiences from different jobs and travel around the country. He also finds joy in helping the community and those in need. So far his favorite moment was being deployed off to Washington DC to FEMA HQ. Being a part of something bigger and helping citizens everywhere. After the program is over he seeks to find employment within the federal government that will be helping those in need around the country.

**Eliza Smith** - Eliza is from Albany, NY. She joined FEMA Corps to gain a sense of independence and responsibility before heading off to college. Her favorite moment in the program was when she completed her first project she was assigned in FEMA Headquarters, which was compiling minutes CPCB RSF Coordinators Workshop 2015, and it received positive feedback. After this program, she will attend Northeastern University, intending to major in Behavioral Neuroscience.